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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,564	11/25/2003	Germain Cadotte	RP-01094-US2	9108

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EXAMINER

WINNER, TONY H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3611	

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/723,564	CADOTTE ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Tony H. Winner	3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/22/04</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4, 7-12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Ishii (US. patent 6,371,233 B2).

Savage discloses a snowmobile, comprising:

- a. a frame;
- b. two skis disposed at a forward end of the game;
- c. an endless drive track disposed beneath a rearward end of the frame to propel the snowmobile;
- d. a seat mounted on the frame adapted to accommodate at least one person;
- e. an upper portion (104) and a lower portion (28), the upper portion being pivotally connected to the lower portion and comprise a material different and more rigid from that of the seat,
- f. the fairing tapers inwardly from a forward end to a rearward pointed end and also includes a lock.
- g. a tail light (140) disposed on the fairing.

With regard to claims 2-4, 7-8, and 10-12 Savage discloses all of the claimed limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Savage et al. (US. patent 6,263,991 B1) in view of Hanagan (US. Patent 6,729,516 B2).

Savage discloses a snowmobile, comprising:

- a. a frame;
- b. two skis disposed at a forward end of the game;
- c. an endless drive track disposed beneath a rearward end of the frame to propel the snowmobile;
- d. a seat mounted on the frame adapted to accommodate at least one person;

Savage lacks the teaching of a fairing disposed rearwardly of the seat and a storage compartment defined by an interior of the fairing.

Hanagan discloses a vehicle comprising:

- a. a fairing disposed rearwardly of the seat and a storage compartment defined by an interior of the fairing,

- b. an upper portion (figure 2, element 20) and a lower portion (28), the upper portion being pivotally connected to the lower portion and comprise a material different and more rigid from that of the seat,
- c. a seal (74) is disposed on one of the upper portion and the lower portion,
- d. the fairing tapers inwardly from a forward end to a rearward pointed end and also includes a lock.

Based on the teaching of Hanagan, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the snowmobile of Savage to include the fairing with storage compartment of Hanagan so as to provide the snowmobile with a storage compartment, thus, allowing user to storage personal items.

With regard to claims 2-4 and 8, Savage as modified by Hanagan discloses all of the claimed limitations.

With regard to claim 5, Savage as modified by Hanagan discloses the claimed invention but lacks the specific opening angle for the storage compartment. However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to set the opening angle at 150 degrees, since the applicant has not disclosed that by setting the opening angle of the storage compartment at a certain angle would solve any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the present teaching.

With regard to claim 6, Savage as modified by Hanagan discloses all of the claimed limitations.

3. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Savage as modified by Hanagan and further in view of Ishii (US. Patent 6,371,233 B2).

Savage as modified by Hanagan is disclosed above but lacks the teaching of a tail light.

Ishii teaches a snowmobile with a tail light located in the lower portion of the storage compartment so as to provide visibility.

Based on the teaching of Ishii, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the snowmobile with a storage compartment of Savage as modified by Hanagan to include the tail light of Ishii so as to provide the snowmobile with a visibility means for safety purpose.

With regards to claims 9-13, Savage as modified by Hanagan discloses all of the claimed limitations.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schwochert et al. ('655) and Hayes ('182) are cited of interest.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Anthony H. Winner whose telephone number is (703) 306-5957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris, can be reached at (703) 308-0629. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is
(703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.


TONY WINNER
PATENT EXAMINER

June 1, 2004